(b) what steps are being taken to reduce dependence on BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There have been few cases ' Passenger Reservation System (PRS) failures due to interruptions in BSNL owned communication channels in remote areas. These failures are immediately brought to the BSNL authorities for rectification.

To ensure uninterrupted functioning of PRS, stand by communication channels through Railway Optical Fiber Cable and Railtel media are also provided, wherever feasible.

Railway board employees holding elective office in Kendriya Bhandar

2104. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Railway Board employees, New Delhi granted permission to hold an elective office in the Central Government Employees Consumer Cooperative Society Ltd. (Kendriya Bhandar) as per the provisions of Rule 15 of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 togetherwith copies of their applications and permission granted thereon during the year 2007;

(b) whether there is any proposal to direct all such employees who are holding an elective office in Kendriya Bhandar without the previous sanction of Government, to discontinue holding an elective office in Kendriya Bhandar forthwith; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) The employees of Railway Board are not governed by Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Coach maintenance depot

2105. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that setting up of a Coach Maintenance Depot at Ajni (Nagpur) has been recommended by the Central Railway;

(b) if so, whether the case is pending for consideration in the Railway Board (member Traffic); and

(c) by when this Coach Maintenance Depot would be set-up and commence its operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A proposal for augmentation of coaching complex at Ajni at a cost of Rs. 8.93 crores has been received by the Railway Board in July, 2007. This proposal is under consideration.